

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 COME-00 AGR-05

AF-06 EA-07 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/110 W

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R 271737Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4161

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD EAGR

SUBJECT: COFFEE: CANDIDATES FOR ICO OFFICERS

1. SUMMARY-INTRODUCTION: IN ITS NEXT SESSION, SEPTEMBER 18-19, THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE COUNCIL (ICC) WILL ELECT CHAIRMEN FOR THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION (ICO), FOR THE COFFEE YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 1975. THIS YEAR, UNDER USUAL PRACTICE THE ICC CHAIRMAN WILL BE SELECTED BY THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRODUCER GROUP WHILE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD WILL FALL

TO THE CONSUMERS. MANUEL ESCALANTE OF COSTA RICA SEEMS TO BE THE FRONT RUNNER FOR THE FORMER, BUT CONSUMERS SEEM TO HAVE GIVEN LITTLE THOUGHT TO THEIR CANDIDATE. POSSIBILITIES SEEM TO NARROW DOWN TO DE BLOEME (NETHERLANDS), RORIG (FRG), GALLOT (FRANCE), AND DAFGARD (SWEDEN), WITH CONSIDERABLE DOUBT THAT THE LATTER TWO WILL BE AVAILABLE. DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON THESE OR OTHER POSSIBILITIES WOULD BE APPRECIATED. END SUMMARY.

2. COUNCIL--UP TO PRODUCERS. THE CONTEST FOR THE ICC IS BETWEEN MANUEL ESCALANTE OF COSTA RICA (WHOSE CANDIDACY IS BEING ACTIVELY PROMOTED BY THE GUATEMALAN REPRESENTATIVE RENE MONTES) AND FAUSTO CANTU PENA OF MEXICO, WHO APPARENTLY HAS APPROACHED A NUMBER OF PRODUCERS. AT THIS POINT, ESCALANTE SEEMS TO BE THE FRONT RUNNER, LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE UNPOPULARITY OF CANTU. CANTU LAST YEAR, AS PRODUCER SPOKESMAN, SUCCEEDED IN ALIENATING BOTH PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS, EARNING THE REPUTATION OF BEING MORE ATTUNED TO DOMESTIC, MEXICAN POLITICS THAN TO INTERNATIONAL COFFEE MATTERS. AMONG THE OTHER MILDS GROUP, REPORTEDLY, ONLY EL SALVADOR BACKS CANTU. BRAZIL IS COOL TO CANTU AND POSSIBLY WILLING TO GIVE ACTIVE SUPPORT TO ESCALANTE. THROUGH TRADITION, THE POST THIS YEAR IS UP TO THE LATINS TO FILL, SO THE AFRICANS CAN BE EXPECTED TO PLAY A PASSIVE ROLE. BRAZIL AND THE U.S., OF COURSE, NEVER STAND FOR OFFICE BECAUSE OF THEIR PREPONDERANCE OF POWER WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION.

3. ESCALANTE WOULD SEEM TO BE AN EXCELLENT CHOICE. HE IS EXPERIENCED IN COFFEE MATTERS, TENDS TOWARD INDEPENDENCE OF THOUGHT AND IS GENERALLY HELD IN AFFECTION (CALLED "MANUELITO" BOTH AS A COMMENTARY ON HIS SIZE AND A TERM OF ENDEARMENT). HOWEVER, THE POLITICS OF THE MATTER ARE NOT SO SIMPLE. JEALOUSIES IN CENTRAL AMERICA ARE EASILY AROUSED, AND MORE IMPORTANT, DELEGATIONS HAVE TO KEEP "HORSE TRADING" CONSIDERATIONS, INVOLVING OTHER ELECTIONS, IN MIND AS WELL (E.G., GUATEMALA RECENTLY TRADED ITS VOTE FOR ECUADOR IN THE INTERNATIONAL COCOA ORGANIZATION'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN EXCHANGE FOR ECUADOR'S SUPPORT FOR GUATEMALA'S ELECTION TO THE ICO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXECUTIVE BOARD, WHERE 75 VOTES ARE NEEDED FOR ELECTION). MOREOVER, MEXICO MIGHT ATTEMPT TO OVERRIDE OBJECTIONS TO CANTU AT THE ICO LEVEL BY DIRECT APPEAL TO MINISTRIES ON OTHER POLITICAL GROUNDS.

4. EXECUTIVE BOARD--CONSUMERS CHOICE. THE CONSUMERS CUSTOMARILY ASSIGN LESS IMPORTANCE TO ELECTIVE POST THAN PRODUCERS AND OFTEN DO NOT EVEN FOCUS ON THE QUESTION UN-

TIL THE LAST MINUTE. THIS SEEMS TO BE THE CASE AGAIN
THIS YEAR. FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER ALL POSSIBILITIES
SEEM TO BE RULED OUT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A. DE BLOEME
(NETHERLANDS), H. RORIG (FRG), PIERRE GALLOT (FRANCE) AND
LENNART DAFGARD (SWEDEN). TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NONE OF
THESE HAS YET BEEN APPROACHED, AND THERE IS CONSIDERABLE
DOUBT THAT GALLOT OR DAFGARD WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT.
DAFGARD, A NEWCOMER TO ICO AFFAIRS, WAS QUITE IMPRESSIVE
IN THE LAST ICC SESSION. HOWEVER, HE IS PRESENTLY STA-
TIONED IN BONN AS COUNSELOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OF THE
SWEDISH EMBASSY, SO MIGHT NOT BE AVAILABLE. GALLOT, WE
UNDERSTAND, HAS ALWAYS RESISTED ELECTION TO THE POST.
RICHARDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COFFEE, MEETING CHAIRMAN, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ELECTIONS, ELECTION CANDIDATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON13277
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750297-0586
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750814/aaaaalsn.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COFFEE: CANDIDATES FOR ICO OFFICERS
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, ICO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006